(e) time by which such facility will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (e) A proposal for extension of Computerisation and Telephony Services to Villages is under consideration in the Ministry of Rural Development. A Task Force and a Steering Group have been constituted to go into all aspects of the proposal. Reports of the Task Force and the Steering Group are awaited.

Study on watershed projects in Andhra Pradesh

2310. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Rural Development had sponsored an evaluation study on watershed projects in Andhra Pradesh by Agricultural Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the findings/recommendations of the study;

(c) whether Government proposes to sanction more projects for Andhra Pradesh in the light of findings of the study; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) A quick evaluation study of the watershed projects in the country including Andhra Pradesh was undertaken during 1999-2000 through the Agricultural Finance Corporation, New Delhi.

(b) The Study had covered the implementation of watershed projects in 17 Districts under Integrated Waterlands Development Programme (IWDP), in 11 Districts under Drought-Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and in 1 District under Desert Development Programme (DDP) during the years 1995-98. These projects covered a total area of 15.10 lakh ha. *i.e.* 12.52 lakh ha. under DPAP, 1.51 lakh ha. under DDP and 1.07 lakh ha. under IWDP. The Study found that an amount of Rs. 141.44 crores had been incurred under the three Programmes on major activities such as soil conservation, farm ponds, percolation tanks, horticulture, pasture development, afforestation, plantation of timber & fuel wood etc.

(c) and (d) New projects for development of 6.68 lakh ha. at a total cost of about Rs. 400 crores, spread over a period of five years, have been sanctioned under the three Programmes for various Districts of Andhra Pradesh from 1.4.2000 to 31.7.2002.

NFBS beneficiaries in Orissa

2311. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) across the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of cases sanctioned under NFBS in Orissa during last three years, District-wise;

(c) the total number of cases sanctioned in Jajpur District in Orissa, block-wise; and

(d) whether any complaints have been received regarding irregularities in giving compensation under NFBS in Korai Block of Jajpur District in Orissa; and

(e) if so, corrective measures taken by Government for proper implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) A Statement showing State-wise number of beneficiaries under the NFBS reported as on date by the States/Union Territories during the last three years is attached at Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) A Statement is attached at Statement-II. (*See* below)

(c) A Statement is attached at Statement III. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Five cases of irregular sanction of compensation under the NFBS in Korai Block had been reported by the State Government. After enquiry by the Additional District Magistrate, Jajpur, the five cases were cancelled by the District Collector. No payment of financial assistance is reported to have been made to the five applicants. As a step towards proper utilisation of NFBS funds, the Women and Child Development Department of the State Government had issued instructions to all the